

Message Text

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SUBJ: EDITORIAL REACTION TO SUSPENSION OF WGSTT

REF: MVD 363

1. SUMMARY. TWO MONTEVIDEO PAPERS HAVE CARRIED EDITORIALS CRITICAL OF THE US DECISION NOT TO ATTEND THE WGSTT. ONE NOTES WITH APPROVAL GOU'S POLICY FAVORING OPEN DISCUSSIONS, WHILE THE OTHER PONTS TO THE DISCOURTESY TOWARDS URUGUAY OF THE US DECISION. END SUMMARY.

2. AN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED IN MONTEVIDEO'S SMALL-CIRCULATION EL DIARIO, FEB 3, SAYS "THE REACTION OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN STRICTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE DIMENSIONS OF THE INOPPORTUNE REBUFF OFFERED TO OUR OWN COUNTRY AND ALL THE REST, BY THE ERRATIC ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON." AFTER COMMENTING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE USURIOUS ROYALTIES LDCS HAVE TO PAY FOR EVEN A LIMITED ACCESS TO IT, THE EDITORIAL DESCRIBES HOW THE WG WAS SET UP AS PART OF THE "NEW DIALOGUE". IT CONTINUES: "BUT ALSO ON THIS FRONT THE IRREPRESSIBLE HAUGHTINESS AND THE INTRANSIGENT AVIDITY OF THE GREAT NORTHERNPOWER PREVENTED THE "NEW DIALOGUE" FROM BEING CONVERTED INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN EMPTY RHETORIC." AFTER UNCLASSIFIED

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DESCRIBING THECHILL IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE

QUITO MEETING AND THE REACTION TO THE US TRADE ACT, THE EDITORIAL ENDORSES THE URUGUAYAN ATTITUDE ON THE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING OPEN AND ACTIVE FORUMS TO OVERCOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS. IT CONTNUES: "BUT THERE ARE NO VALID REASONS NOW TO EXCUSE THIS DECISION--OF FLAGRANT AND UNCONTROLLED RETALIATION (RETORSION)- TAKEN UNEXPECTEDLY BY THE US, WHEN ALL THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS HAD PUNCTUALLY ARRIVED AT THE RENDEZVOUS, TO DESERT FROM A CONCLAVE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED AT LEVELS SEPARATE FROM THE SPECIFICALLY POLITICAL CONTEXT." IN CONCLUSION THE EDITORIAL SAYS THE DELEGATES TO THE WGSTT WILL DEFINE A COMMON POSITION IN FACE OF THE REBUFF RECEIVED FROM THE US.

3. IN AN EDITORIAL NOTE FEB 4, THE LARGER-CIRCULATION EL PAIS SAYS THE US DECISION DESERVES CRITICISM:"THE GREAT COUNTRY TO THE NORTH LESSENS ITS PRESTIGE BY SHOWING AN UNJUSTIFIED SUSCEPTIBILITY, APART FROM AN INEXCUSABLE LACK OF COURTESY WHICH AFFECTS PRIMARILY THE HOST COUNTRY, IN THIS CASE URUGUAY. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS PROCEDURE WOULD BENEFIT ANY AMERICAN COUNTRY IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER, NOT EVEN THE US, AS LONG AS A CONTRIBUTION IS CURTAILED WHICH SHOLD BE DECISIVE TO REACH CERTAIN OBJECTIVES COMMON TO ALL."

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